

SATURDAY, JULY 11.

With commendable alacrity, the Treasury returns for the quarter and half year ending June 30 were published on the 7th instant. The returns for the quarter show the net revenue to have been £297,000, up against £257,500 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year; while the ordinary expenditure was £206,341, against £17,056 for the corresponding period. In addition to the amounts mentioned, however, there were disbursements to the amount of £155,633 under the head of "lost," and £37,051 under that of special outlay. The statement for the half-year was as follows:

	Half-Year ended June 30, 1870.	Half-Year ended June 30, 1869.
Customs	£310,196 8 2	£306,761 16 10
Excise	9,242 6 5	11,363 10 7
Stamp Duty	1,104 10 0	1,104 10 0
Gols	11,806 2 9	6,688 1 8
Land Revenue	130,254 13 0	129,154 13 0
Postage	12,152 10 0	12,152 10 0
Commission on Post Office Orders	506 10 0	588 10 0
Accumulation	18,255 13 0	22,025 12 0
Fee of Office	1,197 17 11	1,117 10 0
Fines and Forfeitures	580 15 0	809 17 0
Bonds, exclusive of Land	8,036 2 8	7,187 10 0
Habour Trust Fund		
Railway Receipts— Southern and Western... Northern	44,937 0 1	65,490 8 1
Special Receipts...	4,665 10 0	5,540 10 0
EXPENDITURE		
Half-Year ended June 30, 1870.		
Scholarships (Governor, interest on stocks, &c.)	£128,904 12 0	£126,143 19 0
Revenue and Legislative Colonial Secretary	5,176 10 0	8,546 10 0
Interest on Justice	120,416 8 0	124,581 15 0
Colonial Treasurer	41,864 6 0	46,665 10 0
Scholarship for Lands	31,374 2 2	34,387 5 0
Scholarships in Works	29,181 9 1	47,059 2 0
Postmaster-General	1,874 19 0	1,954 15 0
Grand total	£312,004 5 0	£282,538 2 0
Loss Expenditure	£3,724 4 0	£39,300 10 0
Special Expenditure		

From the above it will be seen that there was an increase of revenue upon the corresponding six months of last year of £72,718, and of expenditure of £59,930. The loan expenditure of £285,758 was spent, for the most part, on railway extension, immigration, and telegraphic extensions.

The Legislative Council did not take so long a time in the consideration of the new Land Bill as was led to expect. On the 8th instant, the whole bill was passed without amendment, but the amendments effected were of such a character as practically to prevent the measure from coming into law. In fact, as the leading journal remarks, it is evident that the members of the Legislative Council "regard land legislation from Brisbane, via the Logan, to connect with the New South Wales system near the river Tweed"; and amongst the proposed extensions an important line from Junction Creek on the Gulf line to the Palmerston, Cooktown, fields, and from the Palmerston, Cooktown, in connection with the working of the lines, it is stated that arrangements are in progress for the formation of a school, to be attached to the central office for the purpose of training efficient operators. Before admission, candidates (who must be between 15 and 24 years of age, and in a perfect state of health) must be capable of writing a clear legible hand, of composing and spelling correctly, and be well grounded in geography, grammar, and arithmetic; and, after admission, the course of training is to include everything connected with the efficient working of a telegraph office, together with sufficient technical instruction to enable an operator to repair faults, either in the office or out of it. On 1st November last, a reduction of charge for messages transmitted came into force, and for the six months following an increase of 60 per cent. in the number became apparent; but Mr. Cracknell does not apprehend that the present increase of expenditure, owing to the augmentation of business, will lead to a deficit, as the public are beginning to come to appreciate the importance of cheap telegraphic communication.

With regard to International Telegraphy, the report speaks greatly in favour of a second line, that shall be avoided to avoid conjunction with the Netherlands-India lines in Sumatra and Java, inasmuch as by the construction of a direct line from the Gulf of Carpenteria to Singapore, English operators would be employed throughout. The whole open last Tuesday, although differing from the old lines, and therefore to some extent the initiation of a new order of railway construction, are but continuations branching off from the original lines, and there was no ceremony observed. About forty miles were opened on Tuesday, and about forty more will probably be opened before the next three months.

The first report of the committee appointed, at the request of the Government, to draft a new Marine Board Bill and a Harbour Trust Bill has "put its way into the world," and is therefore published. The report was drawn in on the 1st April, and was accompanied by the draft of a Marine Board Bill, which was the result of the committee's labour up to that time. They have been engaged on a Harbour Trust Bill, which is now completed, and the report to accompany the same is the only unfinished portion of their work.

The whole will, however, be out of their hands during the ensuing week, and it will be a noteworthy event in our current political history. All Ministries in these colonies seem ever ready to shift on to the shoulders of Royal Commissions the responsibility of investigating difficult questions on which legislation is demanded, but nevertheless nine out of every ten of the reports of such commissions experience a common fate—that is to say, they remain peacefully in the official pigeon-holes, and the huge mass of print which often accompanies them forms a heap of waste paper. In the present instance instead of a formal appointment of a Royal Commission, the Chief Secretary, who appealed to the Chamber of Commerce, and other bodies to make the long-needed legislation for the better regulation of our maritime affairs and for improving the harbours, frankly admitted that he did not know where to find the right sort of man to prepare the requisite measures, and invoked the assistance of these bodies in the work. The committees of the Royal Commissions, the Underwriters' Association, and the Underwriters' Association were not disposed to shirk the responsibility, and the united committee, composed of members of the three bodies, has now not merely reported on the important questions referred to them, but supplied drafts of the two measures ready for Parliament, which they believe capable of effecting the purposes contemplated, and establishing the two important boards for the control of our general maritime affairs, and for the improvement of our harbour and the conservancy of the rivers flowing into it. Their first report, which has just received publicity after noticing the laws at present in existence relating to passengers, har- bours, navigation and seamen, and the machinery for giving effect to them, goes on to say that, after full consideration of these matters, the committee had laid down for their guidance the following general principles:

1. That the administration of the maritime affairs of the colony be placed in the hands of a single Board instead of the several Boards and departments existing at the present time; 2. That such Board should be in part nominated by the Governor in Council, and in part representative.

3. That no salaried officer or servant of the Board should have a seat as a representative upon the Board.

4. That the Board should possess no judicial functions of any kind.

5. That an independent tribunal should be entrusted with all inquiries in which the interests of the public or individuals are involved.

The Board to be the prosecutor in the interests of the public.

It then proceeds to summarise the result of their deliberations as embodied in the Draft Bill. The Marine Board is proposed to be constituted as follows:—The Commissioner of Trade and Customs, two members to be appointed by the Governor in Council, two to be appointed by the shipping interests, and two by the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.

After referring to the provisions in regard to obstructions to navigation, pilotage, exemption fees, &c., it lays down the principles on which for a long time the Chamber of Commerce has been contending that all offences of pilots and officers in the mercantile marine should be dealt with. This part of the report deserves to be quoted in full. They say:—"The Committee have paid particular attention to that portion of the bill referring to offences committed by pilots and officers, and to the general question of inquiry into wrecks and casualties, and are of opinion that the present mode of dealing with such cases is alike unfair to those whose conduct is being impeded into, and ineffective from a public point of view, as the present tribunals possess the anomalous functions of prosecutor, judge, and jury combined. To remedy these grave defects the committee recommend that all inquiries be held before courts of summary jurisdiction, presided over by a stipendiary magistrate, provision being made for securing, in certain cases, the services of qualified assessors in the conduct of such inquiries to remain in the hands of the Board as prosecutor. This proposition is mainly based upon the existing practice in the United Kingdom, with modifications suggested in the bill."

The returns of tin ore sent down from the mines seem to show a gradual diminution, the receipts at Warwick for the week ending yesterday not exceeding 65 tons.

Although the weather continues seasonable, there still seems to be a great amount of sickness abroad, but nothing of a symptomatic type. Rheumatic and kindred ailments are unusually prevalent.

OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

SATURDAY, JULY 11.

We have made very little progress in legislation this week. Mr. Francis's enforced absence from the Assembly through illness has induced the House, although against Mr. Francis's express wish to adjourn for another week the consideration of the Constitution Reform Bill, and when the House met on the following evening it was at once adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. Pope, a member of the Assembly, who died that morning. Country members did not care under the circumstances to remain in town, so the adjournment was made to Tuesday next. The Constitution Bill will then be pushed forward, and the preliminary steps will be taken for the Treasurer to make his Budget speech on the following Tuesday.

I referred in my last letter to the desire evinced by some few members of the Legislative Council to initiate of their own free will, certain reforms in the constitution of the House, as the best mode of meeting the Government's proposal. This feeling was given expression to on Wednesday by Mr. A. Beckett, who proposed to refer the question to a select committee of ten members to be chosen by ballot. His proposal is to abolish the property qualification for members of the Council, and to enlarge very considerably the basis of the representation. The motion did not receive any very cordial support. Some members contended that it would be improper to take such a step while the Government was still before the House. The Committee consider that no ship should be allowed to clear at the Customs without being provided with properly certificated officers, and the bill supplies the deficiency in our present statute in this respect.

The report of the Superintendent of Telegraphs for the past year has been laid before Parliament and contains a fund of interesting information as to the rapid spread of the electric wire throughout the colony, and the great increase in the operations of the department. The document is dated on the 13th June, and at that time Mr. Cracknell states that there were 3232 miles of line, 3821 miles of wire, 74 stations in operation, and 181 officers on the permanent staff.

The motion was rejected, and the debate was adjourned for a fortnight.

All that has been said in Sydney and Melbourne hundreds of times about the demoralizing character of the ad valorem duties has received strong confirmation by the case which has just been brought before our Police Court by the Customs authorities. Messrs. Callaghan, Brothers, have always been regarded as a highly respectable house and quite above wilful fraud, and yet the system appears to have blinded them to the impropriety of using double invoices, one for the Customs on which duty was paid, and the other for the buyer of the goods. The Act says explicitly that the duty shall be charged on the fair market value of the goods in the principal markets of the country whence they were exported or imported, and that were no such markets, on the value of the goods at the port of loading.

On the 2nd of July, 1863, there were 21 officers on the staff—in 1873 there were 19,319 messages transmitted—in 1873 156,368. In 1863 the gross cash receipts were £41,525 10s. 1d.; in 1873 they were £40,759 1s. 3d.; in 1863 the value of messages sent on her Majesty's Service, was £945 6s. 9d.

In 1873 it was £638 12s., and the approximate value of shipping and other freights sent last year was £9,000; in 1863 the gross expenditure was £50,682 13s.

In 1873 it was £27,770 8s. 5d. and the tabular statement given on the report ends with a column presenting the increase of population and showing that while in 1863 the population was 61,840, it amounted to 146,890 in 1873. Amongst the lines in course of construction is mentioned one from Brisbane, via the Logan, to connect with the New South Wales system near the river Tweed; and amongst the proposed extensions an important line from Junction Creek on the Gulf line to the Palmerston, Gold Coast, fields, and from the Palmerston, Cooktown, in

connection with the working of the lines, it is stated that arrangements are in progress for the formation of a school, to be attached to the central office for the purpose of training efficient operators.

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Merchant Shipping Code Bill of 1870. The report concludes with references to the provisions for regulating boats, foyers, and watermen. It is understood (although no official announcement has been made of the fact) that the Cabinet approves of the Marine Board Bill with the exception of the provision which was made by the committee for constituting the Commissioner of Customs for the time being the Chairman. It was thought that this would be insisted on by the Government, and when the House met on the following evening it was at once adjourned out of respect to the memory of Mr. Pope, a member of the Assembly, who died that morning. Country members did not care under the circumstances to remain in town, so the adjournment was made to Tuesday next. The Constitution Bill will then be pushed forward, and the preliminary steps will be taken for the Treasurer to make his Budget speech on the following Tuesday.

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GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

There is a slight reduction to be noted in the quotations for shipments to arrive of cast, galvanised iron, and one or two other such heavy items. Bulk rates show no improvement; quotation for Martin's and Sons' No. 2, nominally 6d per ton, has been reduced to 5d per ton, and for the heaviest iron, 6d per ton. Noted also: Stocks still excessive, best brands showing from 1d to 1d per dozen duty paid. Shipments of Sydney. Quotations range from 1d to 1d per dozen, according to bottling and the condition of the shipment. Five live medals have been struck, and the first five specimens of the second samples of granite 3d to 4d per lb. is obtainable; and for stone, granite, sandstone, 6d to 8d per lb. is asked, a small portion of which is obtainable at 4d per lb. Blocks of wood-pine are large. Prices for 10-lb. packs, red cedar, range from 4d to 4d per lb. There are large holders of more than 100 lbs. per dozen, and the leading brands of the leading brands, 6d per ton; Hart's, Dunn's, and Dafford's are quoted at 6d to 6d per dozen, but at the former price only large blocks are obtainable. Gums, 6d per lb. Another brand iron, 6d per ton, has been sold during the week at 6d per ton; stocks in hand are very low. Fencing wire, 6d per ton, is obtainable at 6d per ton. For 1d to 1d; for the higher numbers there is little or no demand. Above an improvement, and the market is firm as has been the case for some time past. The lowest brands of lead is obtainable in the southern markets, and may be had at 1d per lb. The lowest brands of tin during the month of June, the rate of the same at 1d per lb., comes down to 1d per lb., while a parcel of 10 lbs. comes to 6d. One has been quoted at 6d. Copper is quoted at 6d per lb., and stocks are very low. The market is firm, and with stocks of iron and medium yellow copper. The former are quoted at 6d per lb., and the latter 6d to 6d per lb. Tin, 6d per lb., is very much in demand, and readily obtainable, ranging from 6d to 6d per lb., according to sample. Tongue wire, 6d per lb., is obtainable, and has to be had in brands, and rates are quoted at 6d per lb. Lead is obtainable at 6d per lb. Martin's bulk, 6d; case, 6d to 6d; tin, 6d. In which case, the lowest brand is quoted at 6d per lb. Lorry, case, 2d to 2d. In other hand, the price of the metal seems to be 2d.

MINING.

WEDNESDAY EVENING. GOLD shares are again almost quite neglected. A good sized parcel of Paxtons at 2d. 6d. was all that changed hands this morning. Copper also quiet. Sales of Peaks Down reported at 1d. 6d. to 1d. 6d. sellers at 1d. 6d., buyers at 1d. 6d. Mount Perry wanted at 9d. 9d., sellers at 1d. 6d. Buyers of Mount Coora at 7d. 7d., sellers at 8d. 8d. Coal mineralized, Shale and Oil sold at 1d. 6d., and referred.

THURSDAY. Gold—Hobart's G. M. Co.—Under date 14th June, the mining manager reports as follows:—Since last report of the 7th instant, the work in the mine has been carried on as usual. We are still stopping upon the veins between the Nos. 1 and 2 levels; also, on No. 5 level. Driving operations continue upon the northward vein, and 10 ft. 10 in. 6d. has been taken out. The main shaft has been put down 2 feet this week, making the total depth to date 348 feet 6 inches. The water continues very troublesome and prevents rapid progress will commence working at Mr. Coora's mine on Wednesday, 16th instant, if permits. I am making preparations for putting in ladders so as to enable the men to go down and up the shaft without having recourse to a ring. Stone raised this week, 4 tons.

FRIDAY. Hobart's G. M. Co.—The mining manager, writing on July 11, states: I have to report for the week as follows:—460-feet level. South main drive is in 40 feet, and no change in the face of the drive. No. 1 stope south, driven an additional 6 feet, making total 26 feet. The main shaft is 10 inches to 18 inches thick, and the same must be the thickness of the main vein. The main vein has been extended 7 feet, making total length 51 feet. The last lode taken down varies in thickness from 3 inches to 9 inches, is heavily charged with manganite and shows gold. The west end of the vein is now in the face of the main shaft, which is in 29 feet, and the lodes driving well. 115 tons of quartz, and 114 tons of stones raised during the week, making 72 tons quartz, and 90 tons of seconds, ready for crushing. The battery started crushing on Wednesday, and the yield from 72 tons of quartz is 487 oz. 10 dwts. gold, and 100 oz. 10 dwts. silver, and 100 oz. 10 dwts. copper by Saturday. Owing to the lode not being so thick in the north drive as I expected, I have only raised 114 tons of quartz, and the same quantity of seconds. I will telegraph the total yield when crushing is completed.

SATURDAY. Woodstock, G. M. Co.—The mining manager sends the following report for the week ending 11th instant:—375-foot level. The south main drive has been extended 6 feet for the west, making total distance 144 feet from main shaft; the lode has been blasted down a length of 10 feet, and the main vein is 10 inches to 18 inches, and showing freighting all through. The back stope-stripping has been continued; as usual there is no chance to note in the thickness or quality of the lodes in these stopes, all showing the same good appearance as previously experienced. Total depth now 302 feet. The bottom of the shaft contains 8 inches thick, and of good quality.

SUNDAY. G. M. Co.—The mining manager reports as follows:—Under date of 11th instant:—In stopes Nos. 2 and 3, the main vein is 10 inches to 18 inches, and shows 10 inches in width of very fair quality stone. No. 1 back stope is being continued; a portion of the roof has been taken down, and the narrow is of excellent quality. 30 tons have been raised, making total to 40 tons.

MONDAY. Wheat-Johnson, T. H.—The manager reports that last week's yield was 4 tons; that 2 tons 6 cwt. were dispatched for Sydney.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

TUESDAY. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. Sir,—I also am a Presbyter of the Church of England, and as first a believer in prayer and the Bible as your acknowledged official correspondent; but I am not so blind as to be unable to describe the present Public schools as repulsive either.

The Public school provided by Act of Parliament for the relief of teaching of the children and the direction each of our own classes, and I understand that it is not supplied with any religious teaching, and is legally provided by the denominational school, 11, then, the clergy of the Church of England neglect the opportunity of teaching in the class-rooms of Bibles or catechism, hymn or prayer, can they claim any excuse of truth, to have their children taught in the same as those professed? Are they to be taught for as essential things for the sake of a cry for the maintenance of the denominational schools, and yet to be set aside as it useless? Public schools?

Williams G. M. Co.—The mining manager reports as follows:—Under date of 10th instant:—In stopes Nos. 2 and 3, the main vein is 10 inches to 18 inches, and shows 10 inches in width of very fair quality stone. No. 1 back stope is being continued; a portion of the roof has been taken down, and the narrow is of excellent quality. 30 tons have been raised, making total to 40 tons.

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EDUCATIONAL.

WEDNESDAY. TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. Sir,—Fully agreeing as I do with a letter in this day's Herald signed "Presbyter," it seems well to say so without reserve: at the same time deeply regretting that there should have been any cogent reason for "Presbyter" thus writing. It is true, many Christians would be greatly troubled if a child were to be sent to a school where God and His truth are ignored in the every-day course of instruction. Schools with the light of Christ excluded will be no fit places for the education of the young. But we have seen where God's truth is held in high esteem, and where the children attend to the other.

Yours sincerely, ZACHARY BARRY, M.D.

St. Matthias', Sydney.

GENERAL NOTICE.

THURSDAY. THE AGENTS of this Journal in various parts of the colony are as follows:—

The following AGENTS are authorized to supply books and give their own receipts, also to receive advertisements:—

FRIDAY. DIRECTORS: The Hon. S. GORDON, Esq., M.R.C., Chairman. The Hon. G. W. Allen, Esq.; John Fraser, Esq. M.L.A. G. G. Alleyne, Esq., M.D.

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER: A. MOFFITT, Esq., M.R.C.P., Lond. & S. C. ROBERTSON.

POLITICS AND CHALLENGEABLE. On any ground, save wilful misrepresentation: PREMIUMS are moderate; and THE WHOLE OF THE PROFITS belong to the members.

J. C. REMINGTON, Secretary.

SATURDAY. INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT. FOR MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE, ANNUITIES, and ENDOWMENTS.

SUNDAY. PRINCIPAL OFFICE—247, GEORGE-ST., SYDNEY.

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TUESDAY. TOWN: Gordon and Gotch .. 28, George-street, opposite Hunter-street.

W. B. Lee .. 144, Castlereagh-street

F. Barker .. 11, Pitt-street

G. Wallace .. 11, King-street East

William and Yarong, and Stanley streets

Mrs. Fleming .. Post-office, Pyrmont

Springs and Adams .. 41, Oxford-street, next Commissary Bank

B. Irvinols .. 10, Pitt-street, next Commissary Bank

Opposite Woolsey Chapel, Globe Road .. Halley Street, St. James' book-mail, and Halley Bridge, Paddington.

SUBURBAN: H. Richardson .. Paddington and Woolmers Newton, Cook's River, Camperdown, and Waterlooville .. Alexandria

Mrs. J. Hinchcliffe .. 11, Elizabeth-street, Alexandria

A. W. Millill .. Bonny Road, Redfern

Mrs. Maclean .. Rochester Bay

Charles Carter .. Belmont

Chichester .. Chichester

Charles H. Turner .. Ashton

P. Rawlings .. Ashton

Mrs. Williams .. Petersham

W. Thomas .. Waterloo

John Croker .. Five Derry

F. Dowd and Ashfield

J. Fox .. Manly Beach

J. Kynan .. Manly Hill

D. A. Jackson .. Randwick

M. A. Jackson .. Randwick

E. R. Howell .. Gladesville

F. Lovell .. Forest Lodge, Glebe Point

INTERCOLONIAL: G. Remington, Secretary.

British—Mr. George Miller

Irish—Mr. H. Kline

Scotch—Messrs. Moore, Walsh, and Sons

VICTORIA: George Miller

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Mr. Charles Day, Adelaide

TASMANIA: Robert Town—Messrs. Walsh, and Sons

LAWTON—Messrs. Walsh, Brothers, and Birchall.

A great deal of interest in this subject is being developed in this country.

J. G. SOUTBY.

CEREMONIAL CLAWS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The times of the 14th of May, quoted from the Philadelphia Evening Post, are as follows:—The New York Emancipation Society has applied to the Legislature of that State for an Act of incorporation. This society numbers among its members several distinguished men, and at a recent meeting a committee reported that there was strong probability of the charter asked for being obtained. The society accepts the obligation of keeping the bodies of all the members, provided that the remains are decently buried, and that the services are conducted in a becoming manner. The committee who made the report said that the bodies of the deceased would be buried in the suburbs of New York, and hence thereon buildings and furnaces, "where bodies will be burnt in a businesslike and 'unquestionable manner.' The estimated cost of these structures is 10,000 dollars. A great deal of interest in this subject is being developed in this country."

J. G. SOUTBY.

EDUCATIONAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. Sir,—Fully agreeing as I do with a letter in this day's Herald signed "Presbyter," it seems well to say so without reserve: at the same time deeply regretting that there should have been any cogent reason for "Presbyter" thus writing. It is true, many Christians would be greatly troubled if a child were to be sent to a school where God and His truth are ignored in the every-day course of instruction. Schools with the light of Christ excluded will be no fit places for the education of the young. But we have seen where God's truth is held in high esteem, and where the children attend to the other.

Yours sincerely, ZACHARY BARRY, M.D.

St. Matthias', Sydney.

EDUCATIONAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. Sir,—

GENERAL NOTICE.—The Agents of this Journal in various parts of the colony are as follows:—

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